

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): A contact plate comprising:

a base member having a sidewall extending circumferentially around a peripheral edge portion thereof to define a sample receiving area; and

a lid having a sidewall extending circumferentially around a peripheral edge portion thereof and a plurality of ribs extending from an inner surface thereof, the ribs being configured to provide an interference fit engagement between the sidewall of the base member and the sidewall of the lid when the lid is attached to the base member;

wherein the ribs extending from an inner surface of the lid taper inwardly at a first angle relative to a central axis of the contact plate and an outer surface of the sidewall of the base member tapers inwardly at a second angle relative to the central axis of the contact plate.

Claim 7 (original): The contact plate of Claim 6 wherein the ribs extending from an inner surface of the lid have a height relative to the inner surface of the sidewall of the lid at a bottom end of the lid of between about 0.02 centimeters (cm) and about 0.04 cm.

Claim 8 (original): The contact plate of Claim 7 wherein the ribs extending from an inner surface of the lid have a width of between about 0.04 centimeters (cm) and about 0.09 cm.

Claim 9 (original): The contact plate of Claim 7 wherein the inner surface of the lid has a minimum radius about equal to a maximum radius of the outer surface of the sidewall of the base member.

Claim 10 (original): The contact plate of Claim 7 wherein the surface of the lid has a minimum radius within about 0.03 cm of a maximum radius of the outer surface of the sidewall of the base member.

Claim 11 (original): The contact plate of Claim 7 wherein the first angle is between about 3.5 degrees and about 4.5 degrees and the second angle is between about 3.5 degrees and about 4.5 degrees.

Claim 12 (original): The contact plate of Claim 7 wherein the plurality of ribs extending from an inner surface of the lid comprises at least 4 ribs.

Claim 13 (original): The contact plate of Claim 12 wherein the plurality of ribs extending from an inner surface of the lid comprises 4 ribs positioned about 90° apart around the inner surface of the lid.

Claim 14 (original): The contact plate of Claim 7 wherein the plurality of ribs extending from an inner surface of the lid comprises at least 12 ribs.

Claim 15 (original): The contact plate of Claim 14 wherein the at least 12 ribs are positioned at substantially uniformly offset locations around the inner surface of the lid.

Claim 16 (original): The contact plate of Claim 6 wherein the first angle is between about 3.5 degrees and about 4.5 degrees and the second angle is between about 3.5 degrees and about 4.5 degrees.

Claims 17-20 (cancelled)